

Message Text

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P 222109Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE FILINGS

1. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED FILE THE PRELIMINARY SCHEDULES OF THE US AIRLINES WITH THE APPROPRIATE ITALIAN OFFICIALS SOONEST. THE PAA AND TWA REPRESENTATIVES IN ROME WILL PROVIDE THE EMBASSY WITH SCHEDULES (CONCERNING TWA SCHEDULES, SEE PARA 6 BELOW). SWA'S SCHEDULE IS THE SAME AS THE WINTER 1976/77 SCHEDULE.

2. AS PROPOSED SCHEDULES NOW STAND, OVERALL THE US AIRLINES PASSENGER CAPACITY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ITALY HAS DECREASED 2 PERCENT. PAA CAPACITY DECREASES 10 PERCENT WHILE TWA INCREASES ONE PERCENT. PAA HAS DECREASED ITS CAPACITY BY DROPPING THE TWO 707 FLIGHTS VIA THE IBERIAN PENINSULA. TWA HAS DROPPED TWO 707 FLIGHTS AT ROME, SUBSTITUTED 747'S FOR FIVE OF THE DAILY
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NONSTOP FLIGHTS TO MILAN, AND DROPPED 5 OF THE 7 ONE-STOP FLIGHTS TO MILAN. TWA'S CAPACITY AT MILAN INCREASES 18 PERCENT.

3. ON FLIGHTS BEYOND ROME PAN AMERICAN IS SUBSTITUTING 747'S FOR 707'S ON THE DAILY SERVICE TO MIDDLE EAST

POINTS. TWA WILL BE OPERATING TWO FEWER FLIGHTS BEYOND ROME TO ATHENS.

4. PAA PLANS ONE WEEKLY WESTBOUND ONLY ALL-CARGO FREQUENCY WITH 747 EQUIPMENT. THIS IS THE SAME CAPACITY LEVEL TRANSMITTED TO ITALIAN AUTHORITIES FOR SUMMER 1976 WHICH THEY REJECTED. TWA PLANS FOUR WEEKLY 707 WESTBOUND ONLY, ALL-CARGO FREQUENCIES, A DECREASE FROM SUMMER 1976 ALL-CARGO FREQUENCIES. SWA PLANS TO OPERATE 10 FREQUENCIES WEEKLY IN EACH DIRECTION. WE RECOMMENDED THAT THE EMBASSY INFORM ITALIANS THAT SWA ALSO PLANS TO PHASE IN 747 FREIGHTER SERVICE DURING THE SUMMER.

5. EMBASSY SHOULD INDICATE FOR THE RECORD TO ITALIANS THAT US AIRLINES ARE STILL PLANNING 747 FREIGHTER SERVICE BY FILING PAA'S SCHEDULES FOR 747 FLIGHT AND POINTING OUT THAT SWA PLANS TO PHASE IN 747 FREIGHTER.

6. WE UNDERSTAND TWA SCHEDULING DEPARTMENT IS CONTEMPLATING CHANGES IN SCHEDULES NOW IN TWA ROME REP'S HANDS. THESE CHANGES MAY INVOLVE INSTITUTING BOSTON-ROME NON-STOP SERVICE (WHICH WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY GIVE ITALIANS DIFFICULTIES), AND WOULD RESULT IN TOTAL DECREASE IN TWA'S US-ITALY CAPACITY COMPARED WITH WINTER 1976/77.

ROBINSON

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